

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digest From Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 4

April 4, 1942

CALIFORNIA (March 27).--234 Food for Freedom subject-matter leaflets have been issued by county agent offices, and 61 pamphlets prepared by extension specialists. Farm-labor subcommittees of County Planning Committees organized in 42 counties; 41 county economic conferences on special subject war-time farm finance; farm fire-protection program organized in all counties with 2,154 volunteer fire-fighting companies composed 23,248 volunteer farm firemen. Cooperating with War Board, State Council Defense, U. S. Forest Service, and State forester in farm fire-hazard clean-up program which contemplates one fire company to each 50 farms in State.

To keep extension personnel informed on Food for Freedom Program, a mimeograph is issued each week, entitled "Farm Wargrams." Farm-machinery repair and service facilities established in cooperation USDA War Board, and Tractor and Implement Club. 16 regional meetings held with service, sales, and repair groups. Extension Service taking lead, in cooperation State Council of Defense and State Department of Health, in making survey of supplementary sources, of water, and program of supply protection is under way. 75,000 information leaflets printed for distribution. This survey important in case water supply is cut off by sabotage, invasion, or attack.

Blackouts, farm-family organization, and nutrition have been subjects of State and county-wide meetings. 12,000 4-H Club members and 1,800 volunteer local leaders will participate in 4-H Mobilization Week.

FLORIDA (March 27).--Nutrition Week, March 6-13, proclaimed by Governor, used by home demonstration agents and leaders for intensive dissemination nutrition information through regional conferences, demonstrations, club meetings, news articles, and radio talks. School and victory gardens have been established in nearly every county, with PTA and vocational Teachers cooperating. Assisting in training egg graders essential to operation of Government egg purchase program. Canning centers established in number counties for canning food products. 4-H Club girls sewing and knitting for Red Cross. In one county more than 60 farm women have made soap to conserve home fats. Information on soapmaking furnished by home demonstration agents.

IDAHO (March 28).--Victory Garden committees organized in every county, including representatives Extension, Farm Security, State Nutritional Committee, and other agencies; development and inauguration of a rural fire-protection plan organized in cooperation with State forester and other interested agencies; active participation at both State and county levels in scrap-iron collection; holding of district and county farm-machinery clinics, and participation in four-agency plan for assistance to critical areas in soil conservation.

NORTH DAKOTA (March 26.)--Held 800 community meetings, attended by more than 60,000 farm people, advising farmers on production goals. Victory Garden Campaign organized, cooperation State War Board and Civilian Defense Council. Aim is garden for every farm family. Also urban residents where facilities available. Victory Garden committees named in every township and town. Victory Garden Week in April to be proclaimed by Governor. Training Extension leaders.

Land use planning committees 51 counties met recently to consider kind, quantity production needed 1942, and potential future use land resources. Other extension activities include: Educational work on flax problems to meet required 63 percent increase; organization for control grasshoppers as measure to protect food crops and flax, with county control groups organized where insects threatening; county extension agents under auspices County War Boards, have cooperated with retail machinery dealers in arranging one to five machinery repair schools per county; encouraging more efficient use labor and equipment on farms; county salvage campaigns for collection metals, rubber, etc. Nutrition needs discussed at 800 food meetings. Homemakers' clubs disseminating information on nutrition, clothing, family living.

County meetings completed every county for mobilizing 4-H Club membership behind agricultural war effort. Governor has issued proclamation for Mobilization Week.

HAWAII (March 23) CONFIDENTIAL.--Wartime economy of the Territory (8 islands) is administered entirely by the Office of the Military Governor, such rule being made operative immediately after the Pearl Harbor attack. Civilian governmental agencies no longer perform judicial, legislative, and executive functions.

The Director of Extension and 4 extension specialists have definite assignments in the Food Control Division of the Office of the Military Governor, and have their headquarters there.

As Supervisor of Imports, the Extension Director has responsibility for issuing required permits for the importation of food, canned goods, beef and poultry products by merchants. Decisions as to permits are reached by analysis of the monthly inventory, density of merchandise, its food value from a dietetic standpoint, and available local supply. The purpose is to maintain adequate diets for the people without using available ship space for nonessentials. The 4 extension specialists are concerned with the following:

Extension animal husbandman.--In charge of monthly inventory of livestock and poultry, monthly inventory of feedstuffs; preparation of military orders fixing prices on meat; allocation of feed shipments for outlying islands, and rationing of feed if necessary.

Extension horticulturist.--Control over sale and distribution seed, insecticides, etc., as carried out by county agents who issue permits by order of the Military Governor. Assists in planning plantation production efforts, and keeps guiding hand on home-garden project.

Two extension economists.--In charge monthly crop estimate, which now becomes military information of great importance; inspection of fruits and vegetables on docks and at markets; compiling marketing data; price fixing of fruits and vegetables. The work of the economics division of the Extension Service is continuing in all its phases with also the adoption of these additional responsibilities.

At the regular Extension Service headquarters on University campus, Assistant Director of Extension is directing the work of extension specialists and county and home demonstration agents. Assistant Leader in Agricultural Extension has supervision of gas rationing program, Extension Service having been appointed distributing agent for gasoline coupons for farmers and those engaged in agricultural enterprises. Extension Poultry Specialist has functioned in all problems relating to poultry-feed conservation, and is chairman of the Poultry Production Committee of Office of Civilian Defense. He has continued with educational work in assisting poultry farmers. Assistant Extension Animal Husbandman has assisted with dairy feed surveys, and with formation of monthly inventories of dairy feed on hand, and census enumeration of livestock and poultry. At present is occupied with the livestock census for the Office of the Military Governor.

County agents have worked toward food production in following capacities: Assisting with crop plantings of sugar plantations; production home gardens, fruits, and poultry; assisting civilian defense agencies with Victory Gardens; assisting with garden activities of military groups. Other war-time activities include gasoline rationing for farmers; issuance seed and insecticide permits; seed distribution; surveys of machinery, livestock and poultry, farm feed and stock, chemicals, fertilizer, insecticides; growing vegetable seedlings for community distribution; assisting with evacuation Japanese farmers from areas with military establishments and with adjustment problems of such evacuees; assisting as interpreters; assisting farmers with problems arising out of the freezing of alien assets; assisting in conferences with farmers, civilian defense officials, police authorities, in variegated war problems requiring cooperation of farmers; informing farmers of boats available for shipping produce; interpreting to farmers rules and regulations of the Military Governor on the sales of food, feed, seed, etc; encouraging farmers to give blood, buy Defense Bonds and Stamps, and to serve in some civilian defense capacity.

Home demonstration agents have served in various emergency work. On December 7 some immediately assumed management of improvised kitchens, canteens, or cafeteria, and kept military and civilian guards nourished. Since the attack the agents have pushed their already wartime program with increased vigor, with foods and nutrition stressed. Home demonstration agents in Honolulu prepare daily articles for the press on home management, household hints, food preparation, food storage, nutrition, etc., and material on these subjects for regular programs on two radio stations. In their field work encouragement toward home food production continues to be given and demonstrations are held at various clubs and in the homes on nutrition, buying food and clothing, home management, preparation of local foods such as bananas, papayas, canning; and home making of butter, soap, clothing.

4-H Club members are doing their part in the program, with emphasis chiefly on home gardening.